

WASHINGTON STATE MUZZLELOADER'S ASSOCIATION

December 2022 Journal

www.wamuzzleloaders.com



President's Letter

The late season for muzzleloaders has ended and I hope that you were successful in "makin' meat" or at least enjoyed your time in the woods. Personally, I have never had a bad day of hunting.

Now as we look toward a new year, we need to find ways to improve our skill set or possibly even try something new. My personal goal is to forge a new blade and put a nice antler handle on it. The easy part for me will be making a sheath to carry it. I have had mixed results in iron work and honestly have never been satisfied with my end product. Those results certainly will not keep me from trying again. Practice may not make perfect, but it will make better.

In the same way I am sometimes discouraged by the lack of numerical growth in our organization. We have had some successes and some setbacks. We have lost some long-standing members of our group and we have gained some new members.

We need to develop new ways to reach prospective members to our sport. The method that I have found that works is being very open to share my love of history and muzzleloading in general.

A very long time ago I was one of those obnoxious door to door salesmen. I was told that for every ten doors that you knock on, four won't answer and five won't buy what you are selling, but one will and that will encourage you to knock on ten more doors.

In like fashion, I talk to many people that have no interest in history or shooting. Others do but are not convinced that is something that they want to do. But then you find the person that has been looking for someone to show him how to get started. That is when the magic happens. That is also when the mentoring must begin.

We have hundreds of years of experience combined with all our members. If we are willing to share that knowledge, we will develop a vibrant and growing organization. Please join me in "knocking on



Top Youth "Eagle Eye" with Booshway "Overload"

doors” and sharing our sport with others.

We have two opportunities to accomplish that, and we don’t have to seek out the potential members. They will come to us. The Washington State Sportsmen’s Show is February 1st through the 5th 2023. We will need volunteers to man the booth and explain why we do what we do. This is a prime opportunity to find those individuals that have been trying to get involved but didn’t know how.

The second opportunity is the Cascade Mountain Men’s Muzzleloading Arms and Pioneer Craft Show. It will be held March 11th through the 12th at the Enumclaw Expo Center. We have a far more targeted audience at this show but we still need people to become members of our organization. We need volunteers to man the table and explain the benefits of a membership and all the things that the Washington State Muzzleloader Association does to promote our sport. We truly do appreciate the members of our organization and hope that everyone has a very happy holiday season.

Steven (Two Draws) Cole
President

Youth Grant Applications

Booshways and Club Presidents – now is the time to get your applications in for Youth Grants for 2023. The application form can be found on the WSMA website. Helping our young up and coming shooters get started is the main reason we raise funds. We’d love to hear from the clubs on how their young folks are doing.

Membership Renewals

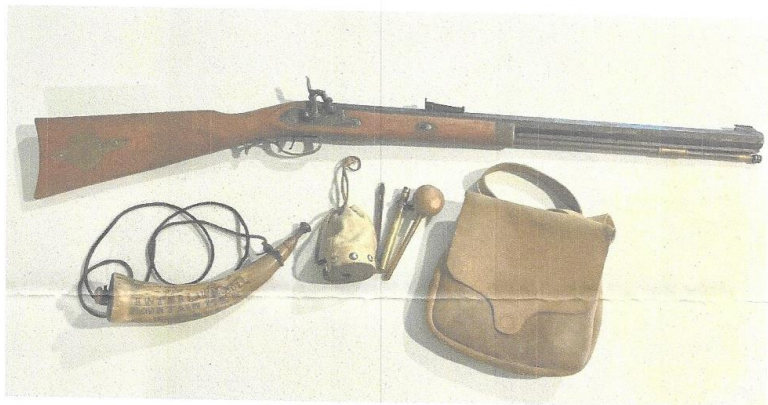
It’s that time of year again to renew your individual, family, club, or trader membership with the WA State Muzzleloader Association. We’ve kept the prices low and you can either mail in your renewal form or bring it to an event. You can print the form off the website, and while you’re at it, print two and get a new member to join.

Interlake Mountain Men Youth Program

2022 program year

Our youth program centers around an educational activity conducted monthly with organizational meetings, mountain man skill development demonstrations, and competitive shoots emphasizing safety and fun using traditional black powder muzzleloaders. The program cumulates each year at our Rendezvous in June where we have youth competitions for shooting rifles, long bows, tomahawk throwing, and period appropriate games. Prizes are awarded to youth in several categories. The youngest are the Peewee shooters who have an adult help them load and steady their rifles. All Peeweeps get a prize basket with period toys and modern treats. A long bow with period arrows is awarded to the top archery youths, and a caplock rifle with shooters bag, and all the necessary items (powder, pick, balls, patches, short starter, powder measure, etc.) is awarded to the top youth. Note, the gun and supplies are actually awarded to their parents for the youth’s use since guns cannot be given to minors.

This year Eagle Eye won the top prize, and Puddle Jumper and Maddox won the Peewee prizes.



Top Youth Prize

Snowball Fight!

With a bit of imagination, the six bullseye paper target looked a bit like a volley of snowballs coming at ya. The fact that there wasn't any snow on the ground made it harder to believe, but however

you looked at it, it was going to be fun. And why not? This was the annual Christmas shoot and Toys for Tots fundraiser for the Paul Bunyan Plainsmen.

For several decades, the Paul Bunyan Rifle and Sportsmen's Club has been supporting Toys for Tots. This year we had a new Marine representative that came out to join us. His name is Dakota and its his first year with the program. Of course, it meant he had to do some shooting as well. Although he was a firearms instructor in the Marine Corps, he was a bit baffled by the flintlock thrust in his hands, but took to it right off, and starting hitting targets. Bob Wendt, the Paul Bunyan treasurer jointed us as well.

The course of fire that Sunday morning consisted of two shots at each of the "snowballs" on the 25 yard paper target for a total of 12 shot, with the score as shown on the scoring rings. Next came two shots at a pie plate with a Christmas tree on it, with 10 points for each hit on the tree, also at 25 yards. For variety there were three gongs hung at 30 yards, a stocking, a candy cane, and another snowball, with one shot at each for 10 points



Raffle Prizes donated to help raise funds

each hit. That gave a possible total of 170 points.

In lieu of a shooter's fee we ask for donations for this shoot, and to help raise even more money, we had some nice raffle prizes. Steve Skillman presented one of his Thurston County powder horns, Lori Caswell brought a beautiful, beaded horn strap, Chip Kormas donated a stool made by Frank Ponceroff, and a colonial era folding knife rounded out the raffle items. All of the normal shooter's prizes were wrapped like Christmas presents, so even



Tom Wilkening won the powder horn

though the best shooter drew first, it was still a surprise.

When the shooting was all done and there were no more raffle tickets to be sold we started on the prizes. The powder horn went to one of our new shooters, Tom Wilkening, and the strap went to Mike Holeman. Jim Haeckel won the knife (and he was also the only one to hit the candy cane), and Mike Moran took the stool home. When it

**When it was
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was all tallied, the muzzleloaders raised \$971.00. Combined with the donations from the other shooting disciplines, we sent Dakota back to Toys for Tots with a pick up truck full of toys and a check for over \$30,000! That will make a fine Christmas for a lot of folks.

Enjoy the holidays and get those guns ready for the next shoot on January 22nd, when we host the WSMA Silhouette Shoot.

Results

Bob DeLisle	125	Derek Sotelo	71	Jeff Nelson	48
Mike Holeman	123	Bill Sick	71	Mike Nesbitt	45
Paul Nelson	113	Wayne Noll	70	Dakota	32
D Behounek	109	Tyler Wilkening	69	Bob Wendt	27
Chris Statz	88	Jerry Mayo	68	Mike Moran	21
Jim Haeckel	84	Tom Wilkening	64		

SPORT SHOWS SHOW INFO ▾ PRESS CONTACT TRADING POST 503.246.8291

WASHINGTON SPORTSMEN'S SHOW
Sport Fishing Boat Show

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FEBRUARY 1 – 5, 2023

WED – FRI: 12NOON – 8PM WASHINGTON STATE FAIR
SATURDAY: 10AM – 8PM EVENTS CENTER
SUNDAY: 10AM – 4PM PUYALLUP, WA

Washington Sportsmen's Show

The show is coming up at the beginning of February. After the holidays the roster will go out for working the WSMA booth. Please consider taking a shift – for a half day shift, you'll get entry into the show for free.

2023 Calendar Updates

Please check the schedule on the website to ensure your event dates and contact info are correct. Send your club rendezvous flyers to michael.moran248@gmail.com for upload to the website calendar.

2023 UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1-5 FEB | WASHINGTON SPORTSMEN'S SHOW, PUYALLUP, WA |
| 17-19 FEB | RAIN-DEE-VOO, CAPITOL CITY RIFLE & PISTOL CLUB, LITTLEROCK, WA |
| 11-12 MAR | CASCADE MOUNTAIN MEN GUN SHOW, ENUMCLAW, WA |
| 25 MAR | WSMA FUNDRAISING DINNER, PUYALLUP, WA |




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